

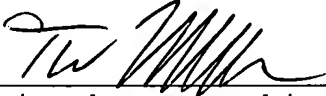
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the above referenced Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Tomono (U.S. Patent No. 4,803,453); claims 2 - 5 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Tomono (U.S. Patent No. 4,803,453) in view of Christensen (U.S. Publication US2003/0071706A1); claim 6 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Tomono (U.S. Patent No. 4,803,453) in view of Li (U.S. Patent No. 5,477,204); and claims 7 - 9 under 35 USC § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Tomono (U.S. Patent No. 4,803,453) in view of Christensen and Frye (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,273). In addition, the Examiner allowed claims 18 - 26. Claims 1 - 9 have been canceled, thus the only remaining claims are allowed claims 18 - 26.

The applicant respectfully requests that the present patent application be issued with allowed claims 18 - 26.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone or facsimile if the Examiner believes that such a communication would advance the prosecution of the present invention.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

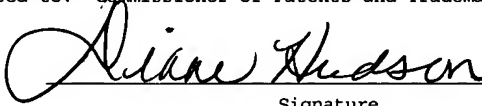
By: 
Timothy W. Markison
Registration No. 33,534
Phone: (512) 342-0612
Fax No. (512) 342-1674

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

37 C.F.R 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Alexandria, Virginia 22313, on the date below:

5-13-04
Date


Signature